

## **2<sup>nd</sup> German History Day as part of Brisbane German Week 2018**

**German Club, Thursday, 10 October (1.30-4.30pm)**

The second German History Day will not only provide a colorful overview of the history of Germans in Brisbane, but also highlight to the audience where signs of this history can be found in today's city. Three short presentations will be followed by a discussion allowing interactions and audience participation.

The day will be moderated by Dr Heidi Kneebone. Heidi has been learning and teaching German language and culture for over 30 years, with senior, and middle school students, and in continuing and tertiary education. Her doctoral thesis connected the areas of German Studies, Linguistics and Language revival, and explored the linguistic legacy of Lutheran missionaries in 19<sup>th</sup> century South Australia. Heidi has worked with the IBD/MYP and SACE curricula and over the last 3 years has written for SACEboard and as senior writer (German) with the Queensland Department of Education project, C2C creating German resources to assist teachers in implementing the Australian curriculum. Heidi also has a background in political and business consultancy and a strong interest in languages policy.

### **Speakers**

#### **Robin Kleinschmidt**

*Bethania: A unique community among German settlers in 19<sup>th</sup> century Queensland*

#### **Abstract**

The wave of migration from the German states, which began in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century gathered strength in the second half. Australia was a less favored destination than North America, but the new colony of Queensland attracted its share of migrants and actively sought Germans. Land ownership was the long-term goal for most, but few had the financial resources to access land grants. It took time to work off the cost of the voyage and to gather capital. However, the new Crown Land Alienation Act of 1868 enabled more of them to take up land wherever it was being opened for settlement, and quite large clusters of German families arose in many of these new areas.

The community at Bethania on the Logan River was different, based on a conscious decision to form a German community. The core was a group who arrived on the *Susannah Godeffroy* in January 1864, but they were joined by other earlier arrivals. Pastor Haussmann facilitated their land grants and purchase and initially served their spiritual needs.

The community had a strongly religious character, and subsequently exercised an influence on the Lutheran church in Queensland disproportionate to its small size and numbers. It maintained a Lutheran school longer than any other Queensland congregation prior to World War 1. Its heritage-listed church of 1872 is still in partial use today.

Densely populated and with an enduring German character, the settlement quickly became a staging point for many later migrants before they moved into new districts, as well as the base for the opening up of the whole Albert/Logan region to German settlement.

Urbanization altered the district in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, but much of its early character, including remnants of German language, survived longer than in many other areas of German settlement. There is an interesting story of the name Bethania and its survival.

### **Bio**

Robin Kleinschmidt spent his 42 years career as teacher and administrator in government and Lutheran schools, retiring in 2001 after 21 years as the founding Headmaster of Redeemer Lutheran College at Rochedale. A third generation Australian, he developed an interest in nineteenth century German migration to Queensland when researching his family history, *Stegelitz to Steiglitz*, for which he won a Silver Award from the National Trust in 2011. He has published a number of short works of family, church and migration history, and a major work *Queensland's German Connections 1842-2012* in collaboration with Peter Ludlow. He is in demand as a speaker on German settlement in South-East Queensland. In 2015 Robin was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to education and the Lutheran Church.

### **Blair Allsopp**

*It started with pineapples: My journey into the German history in Brisbane*

### **Bio**



It's a long way from Canada to Brisbane, a journey that includes a History degree, teaching qualifications and more than 20 years working internationally for both Apple and Microsoft. Settling in Queensland nearly 20 years ago, Blair has made it his mission to explore Brisbane's history, wandering the streets and uncovering many of its secrets. He often says he can't walk more than 20 metres without stopping to tell a story. Blair loves to learn and share the stories he has gathered. He was one of the first Brisbane Greeters, is a regular radio presenter, has appeared in travel documentaries for CNN as well as features in numerous newspapers and in-flight magazines. Recently Blair had the opportunity to host Presidents and Prime Ministers during Brisbane's G20. Through his company, TOPSTORIES, Blair engages in public speaking for business and community groups. This is Blair's fifth season on Channel Sevens award winning show *The Great Day Out*.

### **Michael Rosemann**

*The History of the German Honorary Consuls in Brisbane*

### **Abstract**

Germany was the first nation appointing an Honorary Consul in Brisbane. Since Georg Appel started as an Honorary Consul representing Hamburg in 1855, a number of merchants, lawyers, public servants, medical experts, engineers and academics have served Germany in this role. This presentation will provide a brief overview about the history of the 11 German Consuls here in Brisbane providing a colorful story of the unique and significant contributions that have been made in this role. A short booklet summarising this history will be launched on the day of the presentation.

**Bio**

Michael Rosemann is the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Brisbane since May 2016. In this role, he is committed to developing contemporary bridges between Australia and Germany. He initiated the Brisbane German Week, the David meets Goliath series and the German-Australian Start-up Hub Summit. Passionate about the history of his predecessors in his role as the Consul, he researched the context and impact of previous German Consuls. Michael is the Executive Director, Corporate Engagement at Queensland University of Technology and Professor in Information Systems. He authored more than 280 refereed papers and seven books which are available in five languages. A frequent, global keynote speaker, he provides advice to executives across all industries on innovation management and corporate performance.